

APPENDIX 2 WARNING

PRIMARY AGENCY: Washington State Military Department
Emergency Management Division

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Washington State Department Ecology
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington State Military Department
National Guard
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Washington State Patrol
Washington State Department of Transportation
Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Telecommunications Service Providers
Local Jurisdiction Emergency Management Organizations

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

To provide guidance for rapid alerting and warning to key state and local jurisdiction officials and the general public of an impending or occurring natural or technological emergency or disaster.

B. Scope

See Emergency Support Function (ESF) 2, Telecommunications/Information Systems and Warning.

II. POLICIES

See ESF 2, Telecommunications/Information Systems and Warning.

III. SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

See ESF 2, Telecommunications/Information Systems and Warning.

B. Planning Assumptions

See ESF 2, Telecommunications/Information Systems and Warning.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Emergency or disaster warnings may originate from any level of government or other sources. However, most forecasting resources are located within the federal government, and may include watches and warnings for: floods, seismic sea wave or tsunami, avalanches, severe weather, volcanic eruptions, fixed nuclear facility incidents, hazardous material incidents, as well as earthquake occurrence notification.
2. This notification may come from the National Weather Service (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)), the Civil Defense Warning System (CDWS), the National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC), the Alaska and Pacific Tsunami Warning Centers, the United States Geologic Services Volcano Center, the amateur radio community, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP), or the general public.
3. The National Warning System (NAWAS), established by the federal government primarily for disseminating warnings concerning possible threats of an attack to the nation is the primary means of disseminating this information to state and local jurisdiction officials within the state. The federal government has permitted and encourages each state to employ NAWAS for disseminating warnings concerning the above hazards. The state portion of the NAWAS consists of the State Warning Point (Primary and Alternate) and 31 primary local warning points. The State Warning Point is operated 24-hours a day by the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP) dispatch, Yakima. Federal requirements designate the state EMD as the Primary Warning Point and the WSP as the Alternate Warning Point.
4. Additional state communications capabilities that may be used for warning include: A Central Computerized Enforcement Service System (ACCESS) which is a law enforcement teletype system; a low-band FM radio system for backup direction and control known as Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET), commercial telephone, and amateur radio.
5. Responsible state and local jurisdiction officials may consider and decide whether to utilize the local jurisdiction and state Emergency Alert System (EAS) to warn the general public in special situations.
6. Local jurisdictions will utilize all warning systems that are available to alert local jurisdiction officials and the affected populace. This may include public safety radio, sirens, paging devices, door-to-door, and broadcast media.
7. The process of receiving warning information at the state primary or alternate warning points, and then disseminating this information to all local jurisdiction officials is referred to as the Statewide Warning Fan-out.

B. Organization

See ESF 2, Telecommunications/Information Systems and Warning.

C. Procedures

See ESF 2, Telecommunications/Information Systems and Warning.

D. Mitigation Activities

1. Primary Agency

None.

2. Support Agencies

None.

E. Preparedness Activities

1. Primary Agencies

Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division

- a. Controls, operates 24-hours a day, and maintains the state portion of NAWAS.
- b. Operates and maintains the Primary State Warning Point during normal business hours and when the EOC is activated.
- c. Tests and maintains the state warning systems and the EOC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for alert and warning.
- d. Assists local jurisdictions with the development, establishment, testing and maintenance of local jurisdiction alert and warning plans, procedures, and systems.
- e. Coordinates Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance for alert and warning system planning and development.
- f. Provides detailed instructions and training to appropriate state and local jurisdiction Warning Point personnel and, as required, to the personnel of other state and federal agencies for the purpose of developing a rapid warning capability.
- g. Determines, plans, and coordinates the use of alternate means of disseminating warning information.

- h. Maintains in the State Emergency Operations Officer SOP and EAS PC, current pre-scripted county EAS messages in support of specific hazardous material events that may occur from Energy Northwest, Columbia Generating Station; U.S. Department of Energy-Richland Operations; and Umatilla Chemical Depot.
- i. Be prepared to issue EAS messages region or statewide as needed and directed by the Governor or Governor's designated authority. Be prepared to issue pre-scripted and/or prearranged EAS messages in support of specific hazardous material and/or other events as requested by local authorities.

2. Support Agencies

- a. **Washington State Department Ecology
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington State Military Department
National Guard
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Washington State Patrol
Washington State Department of Transportation
Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission
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Local Jurisdiction Emergency Management Organizations**
 - (1) Prepares to provide assistance and support, as may be requested or required.
 - (2) Prepares, through testing of internal procedures, to receive and disseminate alert and warning information within the respective agency.
- b. **Washington State Patrol**
 - (1) Operates the Alternate State Warning Point, in accordance with the procedures in the NAWAS Operations Handbook, or when designated by the state EMD during an emergency or disaster.
 - (2) Maintains specific communications and warning capabilities as appropriate and agreed upon with state EMD.
 - (3) Maintains the state EAS relay network.
- c. **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Provides and supports the NAWAS which includes lines and equipment to ensure rapid dissemination of warnings.

d. Local Jurisdiction Emergency Management Organizations

(1) Primary Warning Point

- (a) Determines methods of conveying warning to citizens.
- (b) Prepares, maintains, and exercises warning plans, SOPs, and call lists.
- (c) Trains all personnel staffing a warning point in the reception and dissemination of warning information.
- (d) Tests local jurisdiction warning fan-out devices.
- (e) Maintains warning point records.
- (f) Maintains a continuing record of the status of the warning system and advises the local jurisdiction emergency management director of any deficiencies.

(2) Secondary or Tertiary Warning Points

- (a) Responds to state tests of the warning network in accordance with the Statewide Warning Fan-out.
- (b) Trains personnel in the receipt and dissemination of warning information.
- (c) Tests local jurisdiction procedures and warning systems.
- (d) Maintains a continuing record of the status of local jurisdiction warning systems and advises the local jurisdiction emergency management director of any deficiencies.

F. Response Activities

1. Primary Agencies

Military Department, Emergency Management Division

- a. Receives and disseminates, on a 24-hour basis, warning information statewide and locally at the request of the local jurisdiction.
- b. Activates and issues EAS messages as requested by the Governor or Governor's designated authority. Issues EAS messages, as a back-up for local jurisdictions, upon request of designated local authority.

- c. Provides for the receipt and dissemination of warning information at the Primary and Alternate State Warning Points using state EMD and WSP operators.
- d. The state EMD State Emergency Operations Officer:
 - (1) Verifies warning dissemination to all warning points.
 - (2) Initiates state agency call-out and internal fan-out to alert key EOC staff.
 - (3) Activates the state EOC, if required, upon receipt of a warning of an impending emergency or disaster.
 - (4) Provides a status report to the Director, or EOC Supervisor for the state EMD.
 - (5) Notifies state agencies and other appropriate organizations.
 - (6) Coordinates the use of back-up state communications systems for warning as necessary.
 - (7) When requested by local authorities, issues pre-scripted EAS messages for Columbia Generating Station, USDOE-RL, Umatilla Chemical Depot, or other prearranged events. For other events, as requested by local authorities, the Governor, or Governor's designated authority, issues EAS messages as needed.
 - (8) Continues disseminating warning information until such time as the threat is passed.

2. Support Agencies

- a. **Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Military Department - National Guard, Natural Resources, Transportation, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Utilities and Transportation Commission**
 - (1) Makes internal dissemination of warning information when received.
 - (2) Assists, if possible, in relaying warning information when necessary.
 - (3) Provides access to respective networks for warning and communications purposes, or operators and staff to support state EOC operations as may be requested and required.

b. Washington State Patrol

- (1) Supports the state EMD in the use of alternative means such as ACCESS and the EAS radio relay network to disseminate warning information.
- (2) Operates the State Warning Point as required.
- (3) Disseminates warning information in coordination with the state EOC Duty Officer, and operates the State Warning Point until relieved by the state EMD, if requested.

c. Federal Government

- (1) National Warning Center

Operates, directs and controls NAWAS except when emergency or disaster situations exist only in Washington State.
- (2) National Earthquake Information Center

Issues seismic activity advisories and confirmations.
- (3) National Weather Service

Issues forecasts and weather related watches or warnings.
- (4) Tsunami Warning Centers

Issues tsunami reports, watches, and warnings.
- (5) United States Forest Service, United States Geological Survey, FEMA, and University of Washington

Issues volcanic and seismic activity or eruption advisories and warnings.

d. Local Jurisdiction Emergency Management Organizations

- (1) Primary Warning Point
 - (a) Receives and disseminates warning information to local jurisdiction officials whom they support and to the public, as required.
 - (b) Disseminates warning information to secondary warning points.
 - (c) Responds to state and federal tests of NAWAS.

(2) Secondary or Tertiary Warning Points

- (a) Receives and disseminates warning information to local jurisdiction officials whom they support and to the public, as required.
- (b) Disseminates warning information to designated tertiary warning points as indicated in the statewide fan-out.

G. Recovery Activities

All Agencies

- 1. Use primary and alternate warning systems to coordinate recovery activities.
- 2. Restores warning systems and facilities.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Primary Agency

Military Department, Emergency Management Division

See ESF 2, Telecommunications/Information Systems and Warning.

B. Support Agencies

Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, General Administration, Military Department - National Guard, Natural Resources, Washington State Patrol, Transportation, Parks and Recreation Commission, Utilities and Transportation Commission, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Telecommunications Service Providers, and the Local Jurisdiction Emergency Management Organizations

See ESF 2, Telecommunications/Information Systems and Warning.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

See ESF 2, Telecommunications/Information Systems and Warning.

VII. REFERENCES

See ESF 2, Telecommunications/Information Systems and Warning.

VIII. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

See Appendix 4, Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Definitions.